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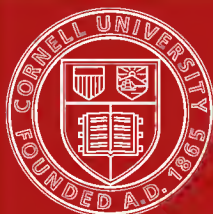
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CENTER OF POPULATION

The center of population is the center of gravity of the inhabitants of the country; each person being supposed to have the same weight, and to press downwards with a force proportional to his distance from this center. The movement of the center of population from decade to decade expresses the net resultant of all the movements of population which have taken place. The following table, and the map on page 73, show its position at each census from the beginning:

POSITION OF THE CENTER OF POPULATION

CENSUS YEAR	North Latitude	West Longitude
1790.....	39° 16.5'	76° 11.2'
1800.....	39° 16.1'	76° 56.5'
1810.....	39° 11.5'	77° 37.2'
1820.....	39° 5.7'	78° 33.0'
1830.....	38° 57.9'	79° 16.9'
1840.....	39° 2.0'	80° 18.0'
1850.....	38° 59.0'	81° 19.0'
1860.....	39° 0.4'	82° 48.8'
1870.....	39° 12.0'	83° 35.7'
1880.....	39° 4.1'	84° 39.7'
1890.....	39° 11.9'	85° 32.9'

Movements of the Center.—In 1790 the center of population was about twenty-three miles east of Baltimore, Maryland. During the next decade it moved almost due west to a point about eighteen miles west of Baltimore, the westward movement being about forty-one miles. Between 1800 and 1810 it moved thirty-six miles to the westward and made a little southing, being then, in 1810, about forty miles northwest by west from Washington. The southward movement during this decade was probably due to the annexation of Louisiana, which added quite a body of population in the vicinity of New Orleans.

Between 1810 and 1820 it moved fifty miles to the westward and again slightly southward, being found in 1820 about sixteen

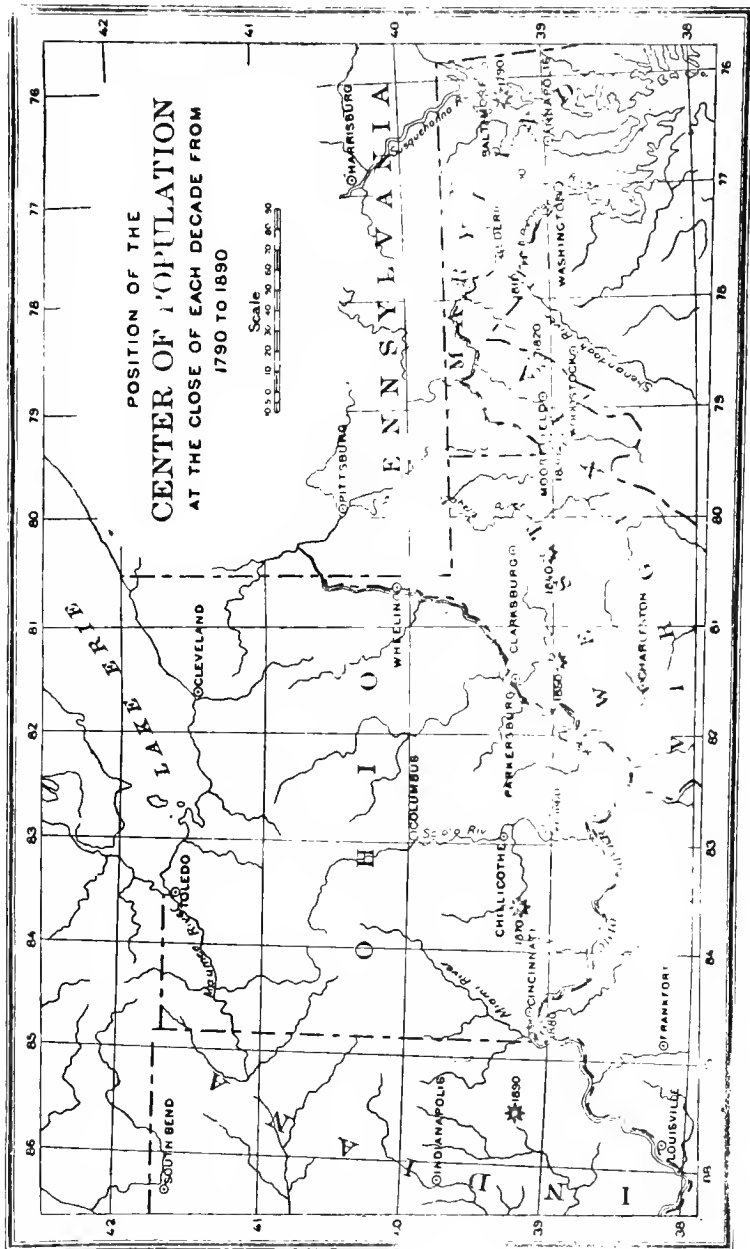
miles north of Woodstock, Virginia. The southward component of its motion was probably due to the extension of settlement in Mississippi, Alabama, and eastern Georgia. Between 1820 and 1830 it moved thirty-nine miles to the westward and again slightly southward, to a point about nineteen miles west south-west of Martinsfield, West Virginia.

This southward movement was due to the accession of Florida and to the rapid extension of settlements in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Between 1830 and 1840 its westward movement amounted to fifty-five miles, while, instead of bearing southward, it bore slightly northward to a point sixteen miles south of Clarksburg, West Virginia, the extension of settlement in Michigan and Wisconsin having apparently overbalanced that in the far south. Between 1840 and 1850 it again made fifty-five miles of westing and turned slightly southward, being found at a point twenty-three miles southeast of Parkersburg, West Virginia. The change to the southward was probably due to the annexation of Texas, which embraced a considerable population.

From 1850 to 1860 it moved eighty-one miles to the westward and turned slightly northward, reaching a point twenty miles south of Chillicothe, Ohio. From 1860 to 1870 it moved westward forty-two miles, besides making a considerable northing, being in 1870 forty-eight miles east by north of Cincinnati, Ohio. This northing was doubtless due in part to the waste and destruction attendant on the civil war at the south, and in part to the rapid extension of settlement in the northwest, and, furthermore, to the omission of the census of 1870.

In 1880 the center had returned southward to nearly the same latitude it occupied in 1860, and at the same time it had marched westward fifty-eight miles, being found eight miles west by south of Cincinnati, Ohio. During the past decade the center of population has moved to practically the same latitude reached in 1870, and has made a westing of forty-eight miles, being in 1890 twenty miles east of Columbus, Indiana.

While the increase of population has been rapid in many parts of the south, notably in Florida and Texas, still it has been far overbalanced by the increase in the Dakotas, Montana, Wash-



ington, and Oregon, in the northwest, which accounts for the northward component of its movement. On the other hand, the reduction in the rate of its westward movement is doubtless due to the rapid growth in the northeastern manufacturing states, which has tended toward retarding the center in its westward march.

The progress of the nation in population and spread of settlement is epitomized in the following statement: The center of population has moved westward within the century $9^{\circ} 22'$ of longitude, or a distance of five hundred and five miles. It has remained during this period in almost precisely the same latitude, the extreme range in latitude among the positions which it has assumed being only $18'.6$, or about twenty-five miles.

The center of population in 1890 was in latitude $39^{\circ} 11'.9$, and longitude $87^{\circ} 32'.9$. On the other hand, the center of area of the country, excluding Alaska, is in the northern part of Kansas, in approximate latitude $39^{\circ} 55'$, and approximate longitude $95^{\circ} 50'$. The center of population is therefore about three-fourths of a degree south, and more than seventeen degrees east, of the center of area.

URBAN POPULATION

The population of the country may be classed as urban and rural; the rural element being engaged mainly in agricultural occupations, while the urban element is engaged in manufactures, transportation, commerce, and personal services of one sort or another. These two elements are closely allied with the groups of occupations as here noted, so that as manufactures and commerce increase, the urban element increases correspondingly.

For obvious reasons it is impossible to make a complete distinction between these two elements, although it is easy to make an approximate classification. Many cities contain, within their corporate limits, extensive suburbs which are practically rural communities; and, on the other hand, there are scattered all through the country small bodies of population closely aggregated, which cannot be distinguished from the scattered rural

population among which they dwell. Such cases are extremely common in the New England towns and cities, which comprise considerable areas, and which consist in varying parts of urban and rural population, that cannot be separated from one another, owing to the fact that the town is the smallest political unit returned by the census. The Census Office maintains the iron rule of regarding as urban all concentrated bodies of population exceeding eight thousand in number, and this rule has been observed in the following discussion.

The annexed table shows the urban and rural population of the country, under the above definition, at each census, together with the proportion which the urban population bears to the total population. The urban and rural population is shown also in the diagram on page 76.

URBAN AND RURAL ELEMENTS OF POPULATION

CENSUS YEARS	Urban Pop- ulation.	Rural Pop- ulation.	Urban to total Population
1790.....	131,472	3,797,742	3.35
1800.....	210,873	5,097,610	3.97
1810.....	356,920	6,882,961	4.93
1820.....	475,135	9,158,687	4.93
1830.....	864,509	12,001,511	6.72
1840.....	1,453,994	15,615,459	8.52
1850.....	2,897,586	20,294,290	12.49
1860.....	5,072,256	26,371,065	16.13
1870.....	8,071,875	30,486,496	20.93
1880.....	11,318,547	38,837,236	22.57
1890.....	18,284,385	41,337,865	29.20

A century ago this country contained but six cities having a population of more than 8,000 each, and the urban population constituted but 3.35 per cent., or about one-thirty-third, of the entire population of the country. To-day the number of such cities is 443, and their population 18,284,385, which is 29.20 per cent., or not very much less than one-third of the entire population. The total population is about sixteen times as great as it was a hundred years ago, while the urban population is one hundred and thirty-nine times as great.

This aggregation of the people in cities is a natural and

